

- 11 -

Claims:

1. An air valve (13) for a lid (2) of a liquid container, which includes an annular membrane, wherein said lid (2) contains at least one air passage opening (19), characterized in that a reception element (21) including a peripheral groove (24) that is open towards the inner side of the lid is fastened to the inner side of the lid and comprises at least one air entry opening (20) communicating with the air passage opening (19) of the lid (2) and leading into the groove (24), wherein a ring (11) is insertable or inserted in the groove (24) and the air entry opening (20) is sealed at equal pressures on either side of the air entry opening (20) and at an overpressure at the inner side of the lid, due to the bias of at least one groove wall (26) designed as an annular membrane, and the air entry opening (20) is released at an underpressure at the inner side of the lid.
2. An air valve according to claim 1, characterized in that the end region (28) of the ring (11) facing the air entry opening (20) of the reception element (21) in the inserted position of the ring (11) is designed to be substantially conical in cross section.
3. An air valve according to claim 2, characterized in that the end region (28) of the ring (11) facing the air entry opening (20) of the reception element (21) in the inserted position of the ring (11) comprises at least one recess (29).
4. An air valve according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the ring (11) is fixable or fixed in the reception element (21) by the aid of a snap connection.
5. An air valve according to claim 4, characterized in that the ring (11) comprises on its outer side a circumferential bead (25) for snapping into the groove (24) of the reception element (21).
6. An air valve according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the inner groove wall (26) is designed as an annular membrane.
7. An air valve according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the annular membrane (26) comprises at least one thin spot (27) to fix the bias of the annular membrane.
8. An air valve according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the ring (11) is connected with a fastening ring

- 12 -

(10) extending in the direction of a preferably central lid opening, via an inwardly extending connection flange (12).

9. An air valve according to claim 8, characterized in that at least one ventilation opening (30) is provided in the connection flange (12).

10. An air valve according to claim 9, characterized in that the ventilation opening (30) of the connection flange (29), in the inserted position of the ring (11), is located adjacent to the inner groove wall (26) designed as an annular membrane.

11. A drinking mouthpiece (1) of a liquid container, which is made of a substantially elastic material and arranged on a lid (2) including an air valve (13) according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

12. A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 11, characterized in that the soft drinking mouthpiece (1), which is preferably made of a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE), is produced by a multi-component injection molding process in one piece with the hard lid (2), which is preferably made of polypropylene (PP).

13. A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 12, further comprising a valve assembly (3) for the passage of liquid from a liquid container, which includes a flexible membrane (4) having at least one valve opening (5) and a substantially rigid membrane supporting element (7) having at least one valve opening (15), wherein, with the valve assembly (3) being in a closed position, the membrane (4) rests on the membrane supporting element (7) and the valve opening (5) of the membrane (4) is sealingly covered by the membrane supporting element (7) and the valve opening (15) of the membrane supporting element (7) is sealingly covered by the membrane (4), the membrane (4) being inwardly curved in said closed position, characterized in that, during the external application of pressure to the drinking mouthpiece (1) and/or the application of an underpressure at the membrane side facing away from the membrane supporting element (7), the membrane (4) is in a resnapped, outwardly curved open position in which the valve openings (5, 15) of the membrane (4) and membrane supporting element (7), respectively, are released.

14. A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13, characterized in that the membrane (4) is each substantially conical in its closed and open positions.

15. A drinking mouthpiece according to claim 13 or 14, charac-

- 13 -

terized in that the membrane supporting element (7) comprises a valve seat surface (8) substantially corresponding with the inwardly curved shape of the membrane (4) in its closed position.

16. A drinking mouthpiece according to any one of claims 13 to 15, characterized in that the drinking mouthpiece (1) comprises a latch groove (6) intended to receive the membrane supporting element (7) configured as a latch body.

17. A drinking mouthpiece according to any one of claims 13 to 16, characterized in that the membrane supporting element (7) is connected with a fastening ring (10) via a web (9).

18. A drinking mouthpiece according to any one of claims 13 to 17, characterized in that the drinking mouthpiece (1) is designed to be substantially oval in top view.

19. A drinking mouthpiece according to claims 18 and 17, characterized in that the web (9) used to fasten the membrane supporting element (7) is designed in a plate-shaped manner with the plane defined by the plate-shaped web (9) extending in the direction of the longer axis of the drinking mouthpiece (1) in top view.

20. A drinking mouthpiece according to any one of claims 13 to 19, characterized in that the membrane (4) comprises several valve openings (5) arranged along a circular line.

21. A drinking mouthpiece according to any one of claims 13 to 20, characterized in that the membrane supporting element (7) comprises a substantially central valve opening (15).

22. A valve assembly according to any one of claims 13 to 21, characterized in that the mouthpiece (1), formed as a drinking spout, extends beyond the membrane (4), whereby an elevated drinking spout edge (17) is formed as a membrane protection and spacer element.

23. A drinking mouthpiece according to any one of claims 13 to 22, characterized in that the membrane supporting element (7) is made of polypropylene (PP).